

C-C-Conquer the C-C-Cold

Cables and wires need extra care when the temperature drops below freezing. Keep your commo on line with these lucky seven cold-weather PM tips:

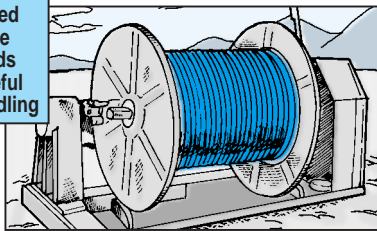
1. The rubber insulation on cable and wire gets brittle in the cold, so store cable and wire inside a shelter, if possible. If you do store your wire and cable inside a shelter, you must take care not to damage your commo equipment. Stored wire and cable can easily knock off knobs and break connectors when it's being stored, removed or if the load shifts.

2. If you can't store your wire and cable inside a shelter, try to warm it in your shelter before you unroll it. Unrolling cable when it's too cold cracks the insulation. The inside wires could break, too.

When you unroll your cable, watch for kinks and crimps. Those are the areas that will break. Gently straighten

out the kinks and crimps, if you can. If they won't straighten easily, you should warm the cable before you complete the unrolling.

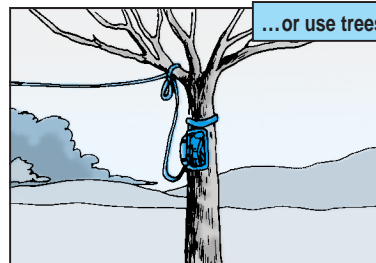
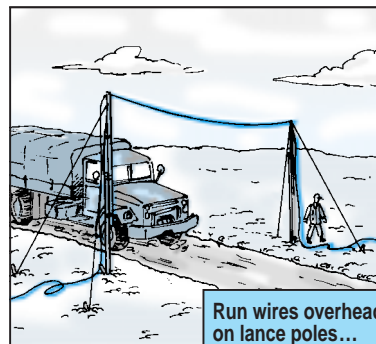
Coiled cable needs careful handling



3. Keep an eye on splices as you lay your wire. Because of cold contraction, these areas can open and become vulnerable to water intrusion and freezing. Use cold-weather tape, NSN 5970-00-240-0620, when you have to splice or repair wire. It comes in a 30-ft roll.

4. It's best to keep cable and wire off the ground and away from feet, vehicles and cargo areas. In fact, stringing them overhead gives you the added

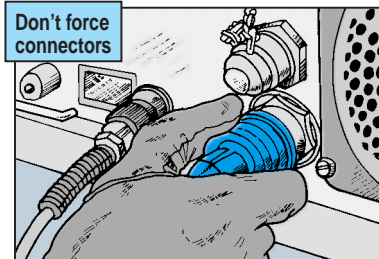
advantage of not letting wires and cables freeze to the ground. That creates a pain when you recover them.



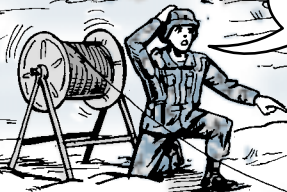
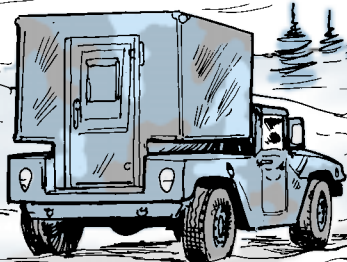
5. Leave a little slack when you lay wire or cable. Metal and rubber shrink in the cold. The wire or cable can break if you pull it too tight.

6. The cold affects cable connections, too. Carefully connect and disconnect them. Rough stuff can break connectors and receptacles.

Don't force connectors



7. Finally, there is no substitute for patience in handling cable in the cold. Slow and easy is the way when you pay out, reel in or flex cable. Fast and rough cracks insulation.



HEY, NOT SO FAST! YOU'RE CRIMPING THE CABLE!

KINK

KRAK

KRUV

WHOA! UH-OH!

